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BOROUGH OF ARUNEL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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East Pallant House,
Chichester.
October, 1942.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Arundel.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my third Annual Report on the Health of the Arundel Borough and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1941.

On the instructions of the Minister of Health as detailed in Circular 2604 of the 24th March 1942, the present Report is much curtailed and many of the particulars usually found in such Reports are not given. Further, for security reasons, all reference to local populations and activities in connection with wartime industrial, military or other important developments such as extension of water supply or sewerage works or other public utility undertakings are omitted. War conditions have continued to make increasing calls on the community and these have been reflected in the work of the Department during the year. In spite, however, of these conditions, no deterioration of the general health of the community is apparent. Civil Defence duties of various kinds still occupy a considerable part of the Sanitary Inspector's time and have caused some curtailment of the routine work of the Department. Mr Gates, in spite of great difficulties, has been able to maintain the essential work of the Department.

The birth rate in 1941 was 11.64 per 1,000 population, as compared with 12.2 in 1940 and a national rate of 14.2 in 1941.

The death rate was 17.26 as compared with 17.03 in 1940 and a national rate of 12.90 in 1941.

The most notable features regarding infectious disease were the outbreak of measles in the early Spring and Summer and the epidemic of scarlet fever during the last three months of the year.

The diphtheria immunisation campaign has been continued throughout the year, it being estimated that at the end of the year 66% of children under five years and 62% of children aged five to fifteen years had received a course of protective inoculations.

I wish to tender my thanks to Members of the Council for their continued support and to Mr Gates for his loyal co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ERIC WARD

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

Eric Ward, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

G. A. Gates

Clerical Staff

Miss J. Morrissey

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics.

Area in acres	2054
Rateable Value (April, 1941)	£19,207
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (March 1941)	£75.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population:	11.64
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population:	17.26
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:	Nil.
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age: All Infants per 1,000 live births:	111.00

Section 1STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There has been little change in the social conditions of the Borough during the year and the Borough remains a reception area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The BIRTH RATE is 11.64 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 12.2 for the previous year, 14.2 for England and Wales and 12.84 and 15.32 for the Urban and Rural Districts of West Sussex.

The illegitimate live births numbered 3, as compared with 1 for the previous year.

One stillbirth was registered during the year, as compared with two in 1940.

The DEATH RATE is 17.26 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 17.03 for the previous year, 12.9 for England and Wales and 15.66 and 12.94 for the Urban and Rural Districts of West Sussex.

The following were the chief causes of death in order of frequency:-

1. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system
2. Cancer
3. Intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin
4. Respiratory diseases.

These four causes accounted for 63% of the total deaths, 63% of which occurred in persons of 65 years or over.

Compared with the figures for the previous year there has been a decrease in deaths due to cancer and an increase in deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system.

Maternal Deaths.

As in the previous year, there were no deaths directly due to pregnancy or child bearing.

The INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE is 111 per 1,000 live births, as compared with a rate of 91 for the previous year, 59 for England and Wales and 45 and 42 for the Urban and Rural Districts of West Sussex.

Section II

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff

Particulars of the staff of the department are given at the beginning of the Report.

Laboratory Facilities.

Arrangements for the laboratory work of the Borough are made under the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Scheme and the work is carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Christ's Hospital, Horsham and at the Affiliated Laboratories of the West Sussex County Council and Royal West Sussex Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities and Professional Nursing in the Home.

There has been no change in the arrangements as shewn in the Annual Report for 1940.

Treatment Centres, Clinics and Hospitals.

The arrangements as shown in the previous report remain in operation.

Section III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There have been no new sources of public water supply or any extension of mains.

Arundel water is supplied by the Duke of Norfolk from a deep well on his estate near Swanbourne Lake. The water is sufficient in quantity and is chlorinated at the expense of the Local Authority.

During the year, 14 samples of town's water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of the 7 samples of untreated water submitted, 4 were reported as showing a satisfactory degree of bacterial purity, whilst the remainder were stated to show a moderate degree of bacterial impurity, probably due to soil contamination, thus giving evidence of the continued need for efficient chlorination. Six samples of chlorinated water were taken from the Service Reservoir and Supply Mains - all showed a satisfactory degree of bacterial purity. One further sample, chlorinated some months previously and afterwards stored in an overflow reservoir, was found to show a moderate degree of bacterial contamination. Frequent colorimetric tests, using ortho-tolidine as the re-agent, have been made with the W. and T. Hellige Comparator, in order to test the efficiency of the chlorination process.

In connection with Civil Defence matters, 13 samples of water were taken from wells in the town not in daily use. Reports on these samples stated that 6 showed a satisfactory degree of bacterial purity, 3 a moderate degree of contamination, whilst the remainder were grossly contaminated.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensions to sewers or alterations in the method of treatment and disposal of sewerage have been made during the year.

Public Cleansing.

This work has been continued as hitherto. In addition, various kinds of salvage have been collected to help the War effort.

Shops Act, 1934.

At the end of the year, there were 72 shops on the register. During the year 84 visits and inspections were made to premises on the register.

Number of defects remedied 7.

Camping Sites.

No sites in the area were used for camping purposes during 1941 and no licences were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.

There has been no need for action in this matter.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The two swimming baths belonging to the Council have been in use during the year. Both were cleaned twice weekly and Voxsan used for purification.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

No house was found to be infested with bed bugs.

Tents and Vans.

No tents, vans or sheds have been situated in the Borough and no action has been required during the year.

Rats and Mice.

Poison is periodically laid on Town property. During Rat Week the Council took action by posters and handbills. The offer of threepence per rat brought in was continuous, but the number brought in was small.

Schools.

The use of St. Philip's Club as a School for evacuated children ceased at the end of the summer term.

No major sanitary alterations have been carried out at either of the two schools in the Borough.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.Details of Sanitary Work and Improvements under Public Health and Housing Acts.

No. of inspections in regard to Infectious Disease	466
No. of premises disinfected after Infectious Disease	75
No. of premises disinfected after cancer by request	-
No. of nuisances found to exist	5
No. of nuisances abated	5
Offensive accumulations found	2
Offensive accumulations removed	2
Defective W.C.s repaired	5
No. of choked drains cleared	4
No. of defective drains repaired	3
No. of ashbins provided	15
No. of defective windows repaired	5
No. of roofs repaired	5
No. of houses where guttering and rainwater pipes have been repaired	5
No. of defective walls and ceilings where plastering has been repaired	4
No. of damp walls treated, repointed or rendered	6
No. of floors repaired	7
No. of yard paving repaired	2
No. of cleansing and decorating	9

Summary:-

Total number of inspections made for all purposes	826
Total number of notices served:	
Informal	42
Statutory	-
Total number of summonses issued.	-
Convictions obtained	-
Complaints received	3
Complaints found justified and dealt with	3

Section IV.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

No action has been taken regarding slum clearance during the year.

Housing Statistics.

No new houses were erected in the Borough during the year.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

The continued heavy duties in connection with his various Civil Defence work have prevented the Inspector from carrying out any routine house inspection, but all specific requests and complaints have been investigated and suitable action taken. In this connection, 9 houses have been visited and informal notices issued in respect of 7 of these. All the defects in respect of which notices were issued have been remedied.

In two cases, through general decay, the houses were considered unfit and incapable of being made fit for human habitation. The owners desired them to be closed, and the occupiers were found other accommodation.

2. Remedyng of Defects during the Year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 9.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

No action was taken under any of the Sections of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

FACTORIES.

Inspections Made:

Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	5.
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	-.
Workshops	...	...	...	28.

No notices were served in respect of defects found at any of these factories or workshops.

Section V.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk Supply.Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

There are 4 farms in the district, and these accommodate approximately 145 cows. All the farms are supplied with water from a public source of supply.

Number of Dairymen (Cowkeepers and Milk sellers), etc. in the district...	7
Number of these registered as Wholesalers	... 2
Number registered as Retailers	... 4
Number of Dairymen exempt from registration by reason of not selling milk from their cows...	1

Number of Inspections made:

(1) Cowsheds	54
(2) Milkshops	12

Number of Inspections during milking time

19

Number of Contraventions of the Regulations found

5

Number of Premises found to require:-

(1) Cleansing and Limewashing	1
(2) Structural or Sanitary Improvements -	
(a) Manure Accumulations	3
(b) Repairs	1
(3) Other Contraventions	-

Number of these requirements carried out:

(1) Cleansing	1
(2) Structural or Sanitary Improvements	4

Sediment Tests:

Number of samples tested	6
Number of filters clean	6

Milk Sampling:-

During the year, 2 samples of undesignated milk were submitted for examination at the County Laboratory. One sample was found to be not equal to the standard required for Accredited milk, whilst the other sample was examined for tubercle bacilli, with a negative result.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1931-38.

The following licences have been granted during the year:-

(a) By Municipal Borough of Arundel	...	Nil
(b) By West Sussex County Council:-		

Producer's Licences:-

Accredited	3.
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Legal Proceedings.

It was not necessary to take any action under the Orders and Regulations during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The two private slaughter houses in the Borough have remained closed during the year and supplies for local butchers have continued to be delivered from Littlehampton.

Inspection of butcher's shops or carts has been continued during the year and the following quantities of meat have been condemned and surrendered during the year:-

January: Brawn, 1 tin 6 lbs.
 February: Buttock of heifer - badly bruised, 6 lbs.
 March: Beef, 1 blown tin, 6 lbs.
 April: Forequarter of pig - 110 lbs.
 August: Two quarters of chilled beef - decomposed, 268 lbs.

Details of inspections carried out during the year are as follows:-

Number of inspections of butcher's shops	95
Number of inspections of vehicles and carts	48

One contravention of the Regulations, the need for distempering, was found during the year. This was remedied on service of a notice.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

During the year, three renewal licences to slaughter animals were granted by the Local Authority.

Bread.

During the year, 48 inspections were made of the bakehouses in the Borough, which are four in number, none of them being underground. One notice was served in respect of the need for distempering and this was complied with.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following table shows the number of samples taken by officers of the County Council under the Food Adulteration Section of the Act, together with the results of the examinations:

Sample	No. taken	Genuine	Not Genuine
New Milk	7	4	3 (a)
Olive Oil	1	1	-
Cream of Tartar	1	1	-
	9	6	3

(a) 1 - Deficient in Non-Fatty Solids. Found to be due to bad mixing of production of herd. Producer interviewed and cautioned.
 1 - Slightly deficient in Fat and Solids not fat. Producer interviewed and cautioned. Also due to bad mixing.
 1 - Deficient in Fat. Further sample proved genuine.

3

Watercress.

Samples of watercress were submitted for bacteriological examination in March and November. The reports showed that the samples were polluted.

Other Foods.

In January Circular 2198 of the Ministry of Health with reference to the cleanliness of Persons and Premises was sent to purveyors of food and drink.

During the year, 100 lbs of Canadian Apples and 360 American eggs were condemned and surrendered.

Section VI.PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The outstanding features of the year were the epidemic of measles in the Spring and Summer and the outbreak of scarlet fever in the last quarter of the year.

The following tables give details of the cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease	Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths	0-1	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-55	-65
Diphtheria	4	4	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Measles	127	1	-	6	54	58	4	2	2	-	1	-
Pneumonia	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-
Scarlet Fever	60	26	-	-	7	39	9	2	1	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	29	-	-	1	10	17	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	229	31	-	7	73	115	14	7	4	8	1	-

Disease	Total Cases	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Scarlet Fever	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	33	19	7
Erysipelas	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	127	2	-	11	23	76	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	29	-	-	-	-	3	3	8	7	4	1	-	3
Acute Primary & Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	6	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

Diphtheria.

The number of cases notified during the year was 4, this being one more than in the previous year.

Three of the cases were associated with one another, two residing in the same house and the third in the adjacent house. The original case was a girl of 13 years, who had a moderately severe attack of faecal diphtheria. The contacts who developed the disease were infants of 1 year 11 months, and 2 years. The younger had a moderately severe attack affecting the nose and throat, whilst the elder suffered from the nasal variety of the disease.

Diphtheria (contd.).

The fourth case occurred in a boy of 5 years who, whilst suffering from Scarlet Fever developed a severe attack of faecal and nasal diphtheria. None of the patients had been immunised and all made satisfactory recoveries.

Diphthoria Immunisation.

In January and February, a publicity campaign was organised by means of posters, leaflets and articles in the local press.

During the year, 121 children of school age and 52 children under 5 years of age received a complete course of injections.

At the end of the year, it was estimated that 62% of the children aged 5-15 years and 66% of the children aged 1-5 years had received a complete course of immunisation.

As in previous years, the immunisation was carried out by Medical Officers of the County Health Department.

Scarlet Fever.

On the 26th September, a child aged 8 years attending the Church of England School was notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever. Reasonable isolation being available the child was nursed at home.

A second case was notified during the next week and a further 20 during the week ending October 11th. The epidemic continued until the middle of January 1942, a total of 60 cases being notified before the end of 1941.

The Schools of the Borough were visited on several occasions by the Medical Officer of Health and the help of Dr. Foulds of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory was obtained. Swabs were taken from many of the cases and the children and teachers at the school. Investigations were also made regarding the milk supply but these proved negative. Carriers found in the schools were excluded until free from infection, but in spite of all steps taken cases continued to occur for over three months.

Of the 60 notifications received during 1941, 52 were in respect of children of school age, 43 attending the Church of England School, 7 attending the Roman Catholic School, and 2 in attendance at Schools situate outside the Borough. The remaining 8 notifications were in respect of 5 adults and 3 children of pre-school age. Of the children only three were evacuees, although about one-fifth of the children in the schools at risk were evacuees.

The cases were all clinically mild in character, 27 being removed to the Isolation Hospital, where the average length of stay was 31 days. Only 9 of the cases removed were retained for longer than 28 days. One child removed to Hospital was subsequently found to be suffering also from diphtheria. All the patients, including those admitted to Hospital, made good recoveries.

Not since 1931, when 27 cases were notified has there been an outbreak of scarlet fever in the Borough comparable with the one now described. Details of the number of cases notified in the Borough during the last sixteen years are given below:-

Year	No. of Cases	Year	No. of Cases
1925	-	1933	5
1926	-	1934	15
1927	-	1935	4
1928	2	1936	-
1929	-	1937	-
1930	2	1938	1
1931	27	1939	-
1932	4	1940	2

It is interesting to note that although the children attending the two schools in the Borough associated freely outside the school hours, the epidemic never gained a hold in the Roman Catholic School and that the majority of cases in children attending that School were notified during the Christmas vacation. Although when swabbed in October no carriers of the type of haemolytic streptococcus responsible for the cases in the C. of E. School were found in the R.C. School, the cases which subsequently did occur in children attending

that school were found to be infected by the same type of streptococcus.

The benefit of participation in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Scheme was strikingly demonstrated by the work done by Dr. Foulds. In all, 804 swabs were examined in connection with the outbreak. If the cost of the examination of these swabs had been charged at the usual rates it would have been at least £120, whereas the total cost of participation in the scheme is only £7. 16. 6. per annum, which sum includes the cost of the monthly examination of water samples and any other bacteriological work required by the Borough.

Erysipelas.

Three cases were notified during the year as compared with two in 1940.

Measles.

The epidemic of Measles which occurred in the surrounding districts in the Autumn of 1940 did not reach the Borough in epidemic proportions until the Spring of 1941. During the early Spring and Summer 125 cases were notified, whilst the total for the year was 127. In addition to the notified cases, 4 cases were reported by the Head Teachers of the Schools.

The cases were mostly mild in character and no serious complications occurred.

Whooping Cough.

During the year, 29 cases of this disease were notified as compared with 2 in 1940. Two-thirds of the cases occurred during the months of July, August and September. In addition to the notified cases 2 cases were reported by the Head Teacher of a School.

Acute Primary and Acute Influenza Pneumonia.

During the year, 4 cases of Acute Primary and 2 cases of Acute Influenza Pneumonia were notified. Four cases were admitted to hospital and all the patients made good recoveries.

Influenza.

One death was certified as due to this disease, as compared with two in the previous year.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Information regarding these diseases is obtained from returns made by Head Teachers of Public Elementary Schools.

During the year one case of Mumps and one case of Chickenpox were reported.

Cancer.

The number of deaths attributed to Cancer during the year was 7, as compared with 10 in 1940.

The age and sex distribution of the seven cases are given below:-

Ages	Males	Females	Totals
0-55	-	-	-
55-65	-	1	1
65-75	3	1	4
75-	1	1	2
Totals	4	3	7

Cancer (contd).Localisation of the Disease.

Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus ...	Oesophagus	...	1
Digestive Organs and Peritoneum.	Colon	...	1
Respiratory Organs	Lungs	...	1
Other Sites	Breast	...	1
	Prostate	...	1
	Male genital organs	1	
	Sacrum	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS.Notification Register of Tubercular Patients.

The following tables give details of the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register, together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the year 1941:-

	Pulmonary Cases			Non-Pulmonary Cases			Total Cases (All forms).		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1. No. on Register at 1/1/41	1	5	6	2	-	2	3	5	8
2. Cases previously removed and returning during 1941.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. New Cases notified (or otherwise coming to knowledge) in 1941.	1	-	1	2	-	2	3	-	3
	2	5	7	4	-	4	6	5	11
4. Cases removed from Register in 1941.	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	3	3
5. No. on Register at 31/12/41.	2	2	4	4	-	4	6	2	8

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 ...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172, during the year.

